

SAOF Technical Portfolio Report 2009/2010

SAOF AGM 2010

25 September 2010

Responsibilities

Develop and enforce structures for meeting the aims of the SAOF, in particular with respect to:

- (i) Promote the interests of orienteering and orienteers, and uphold the rules relative to the amateur status and the eligibility of orienteers to compete under the rules of the SAOF and the IOF.
- (ii) Commission and supervise annual national and provincial championships and IOF sanctioned events.
- (iii) Attend to the selection of orienteers who are to represent the federation.
- (iv) To provide official records of performance.
- (v) Manage all structures put in place to encourage the pursuit of High Performance Orienteering.

Assessment

As can be seen from above, the Technical Portfolio encompasses a wide range of functions and responsibilities. In the two years that I have been in this position it is clear that there are two levels to this portfolio. This first level relates to “business as usual” operation and the second level relates to “the future vision” of the SAOF.

There is enough work within the “business as usual” level of operation to keep one volunteer occupied for the year. The functions are well documented by the above points. However, for an ambitious Federation with a desire to grow and develop the sport and to become more professional and transparent in its business the workload is too great for one individual.

I would like to see the responsibilities of the portfolio divided amongst a number of individuals. In 2010 a Coaching sub-committee was appointed with the aim of developing a coach training and accreditation system. I would like to see this sub-committee continue.

In 2011 I would like to appoint a High Performance manager, who would have responsibility for managing our high performance plan. I believe that this will enable me to focus more on my efforts towards our Growth and Development goals.

Review of 2010 Aims

Before looking forward to 2011, I think that it is important to look back at what I hoped to achieve in 2010 and to identify successes and failures.

Conduct Level 1 Courses

The aim was to hold level 1 courses in each of the Technical Areas of Coaching, Mapping and Event Advising. As a pre-requisite it was noted that sub-committees in each of the areas would need to be formed.

Whilst no training courses were held, a Coaching sub-committee was formed (Michele Botha, Nicholas Mulder, Sarah Pope, Glen Terry & Tania Wimberley). The sub-committee identified a similar Coach Development pathway as operated by BoF. Development of an Introductory Course aimed at teachers is underway.

Attempts were made to establish a Mapping sub-committee, however, these proved unsuccessful.

Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) Seminar

The SAOF has signed an MOU with SASCOC to develop an Orienteering specific LTAD model. LTAD provides a general framework for athlete development that is referenced to growth, maturation, development and trainability of athletes, but also influences the general sport system structure, alignment and integration.

Two meetings were had with Dr. Istvan Balyi¹, and a draft orienteering-specific LTAD is being developed.

IT Infrastructure Upgrade

An IT upgrade, to be driven by a task team, was envisaged. Although no task team was formed, a number of successes were achieved:

¹ Dr. Istvan Balyi is the Resident Sport Scientist of the NCI-BC (National Coaching Institute in British Columbia) since 1994. He has worked with several National Teams as high performance advisor, planning and periodization for Major Games. He is a world renowned coaching educator and his series on long-term athlete development and periodization are published in Australia, Canada, USA and the U. K. He is presently High Performance Advisor for the Canadian Sport Centres in Victoria and Vancouver, UK Athletics and The Lawn Tennis Association. Istvan is also LTAD advisor for the Canadian Sport Centre- Vancouver, Sport England, The Irish Republic, the English Rugby Association (Women) and World Class Advisor for Sport England.

- Update the SAOF website with far more content. (Done)
- Develop systems for capturing, storing and analyzing statistics, e.g. membership, participation (Not Done)
- Wiki site for the various sub-committees and project teams. (Done)
- A secure version controlled repository for managing SAOF's strategic maps. (Infrastructure is in place – partially Done)

Policy Development

1) Squad Identification, Benefits and Conditions

The Selection Committee developed clear and transparent selection criteria for Junior, Senior and Development squads.

The published National Squads Definitions document also makes clear what is expected of squad members as well as the benefits they can expect to receive being part of a particular squad.

This was driven by the development of an updated High Performance Strategic Plan.

2) National Coach & Support Staff Appointment

Job descriptions were developed for a national Junior Squad coach and manager. Both positions were advertised and two appointments were made.

3) Development of Guidelines for SAOF Funded Training Camps

Guidelines were not developed. Rather a budget was assigned based on past experience.

4) Appointment of National Championships Host

Guidelines and conditions for hosting SA Champs were updated and sent to clubs.

Additional Projects

Two draft mapping documents were developed and sent to relevant parties interested in mapping areas for SAOF sanctioned events. These are the "Mapping Invitation to Quote" and the "Mapping Agreement" documents.

Aims for 2011

The aims for 2010 were quite ambitious and those for 2011 are no less so. I hope that with more help from members 2011 will be even more successful.

Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) Seminar

Complete the orienteering-specific LTAD model and role-out to clubs in SA. This aligns very well with the 2009 plan for the Technical Portfolio, and in fact for the SAOF to achieve its vision of: Growth Development Excellence

SAOF Websites

Maintain and add content to the official web page of the SAOF so that it becomes the repository of information about orienteering in South Africa.

To encourage use by all members of the SAOF wiki site as a tool for developing policy, strategy and projects.

IT Infrastructure Upgrade

To continue towards achieving the final two goals of the 2010 IT infrastructure upgrade, namely:

- Develop systems for capturing, storing and analyzing statistics, e.g. membership, participation (will assist with meeting our SRSA SLA)
- A secure version controlled repository for managing SAOF's strategic maps.

Appoint a High-Performance Manager

Appoint someone to manage the operational aspects of the high performance plan, i.e. selection process, coordination of training camps, WOC / JWOC entries, access to high-performance coaching & assessments, liaison with SASCOC. The aim is to supply the appointed person with a clear description of tasks to be undertaken.

Development of Materials

The aim is to initially develop material for a professional *Resource Pack* to be given to people interested in starting Orienteering in new areas. A number of people have generated such material for various Club initiatives. So the aim will be to consolidate

this into an official SAOF branded resource pack that can be used in the implementation of the Federation's *Expansion Plan*.

An additional aim is to continue with the development of the level structure, course material for each level and associated accreditation mechanisms for each of the Technical Areas.

Map Making

As part of the *Expansion Plan*, we wish to encourage the mapping of schools, which is a pre-requisite for the initiation of schools leagues. The SAOF has set aside money to fund a number of these maps at a cost of R500-R1000 per map. The standard of the maps is not that for club Sprint events, but rather suitable for introductory events. Members are encouraged to engage with the SAOF about any possibilities.

Operations Manual

I believe that if we have an operations manual for all we do in the SAOF, it will be easier to induct new members into the SAOF Management Committee. I aim to write up such a manual for the systematic components of the Technical Portfolio. The areas covered will include:

- Appointment of National Championships Host
- Appointment of National coaches and team managers.
- Application process and agreements for SAOF funded maps.
- High Performance manager functions

Glossary

NLDTF	National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund
WRE	World Ranking Event
PDI	Previously Disadvantaged Individuals
SRSA	Sport and Recreation South Africa
SLA	Service Level Agreement
WOC	World Orienteering Championships
JWOC	Junior World Orienteering Championships
Wiki	A web-based collaborative interface (e.g. wikipedia)